

please or rise in the world."¹ Compare Cava with Chesterfield in the matter of ceremonies. "We ought, therefore, in regard to ceremony, as a good master taylor does in cutting out a suit of cloathes; which ought to sit rather full and easy, than too tight upon the body; yet not so as that a pair of breeches should hang like a sack, or seat like a sleek about one. Thus, if you are rather more liberal in this respect than is absolutely necessary, especially towards your inferiors, you will be called a very clever civil gentleman; and if you behave in the same manner towards your superiors, as every gentleman ought to do, you will be esteemed a well-bred man; but if one overacts the part, and is too profuse in his civilities, every one will condemn him as a vain and foppish fellow; or perhaps, as something worse; as a designing knave, a parasite, or a flatterer; than which vice there is nothing more detestable, or that can more disgrace a gentleman or a man of honour."² "That politeness which I mentioned, my dear child, in my former letters, regards only your equals, and your superiors. There is also a certain politeness due to your inferiors, of a different kind, 'Tis true; but whoever is without it is without good nature. We do not need to compliment those beneath us nor to talk of their doing us the honor etc., but we ought to treat them with benevolence and mildness. We are all of the same species, and no distinction whatever is between us, except that which arises from fortune. For

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 248, Letter CXC;
2. Galateo, p 90 ff.